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HOW IT CAME TO BE

Early in the 20th Century, prominent American Indians began a movement to recognize the contributions of the First Americans. Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, NY, persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to observe a day for the "First Americans" which they did for three years. At the annual meeting of the Congress of American Indian Association in 1915 at Lawrence, Kansas, a plan was formally approved to observe an American Indian Day. Their president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, was directed to call upon the country to establish such a day. On September 28, 1915, he issued a proclamation declaring the second Saturday of May as American Indian Day. His proclamation also contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens. (American Indians were not made legal citizens until June 2, 1924.)

Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, was also an early proponent for the establishment of a day to honor American Indians. He rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor American Indians, and on December 14, 1915, he presented endorsements from 24 state governors to the White House. However, there is no record of a national day being proclaimed. Although no national day was proclaimed, several states began to declare a state American Indian Day. New York was the first to do so on the second Saturday of May 1916.

In 1919, Illinois enacted an American Indian Day on the fourth Friday of September. Several other states followed suit. Nebraska celebrates Native American Day on the fourth Monday in September while several other states, including South Dakota, have designated the first Monday in October as Native American Day rather than Columbus Day.

In 1990, President George Bush was the first President to give national recognition to honoring the American Indians. On August 3, 1990, after four years of Congress designating "American Indian Heritage Week," a month long celebration was established. The legislation was presented by Senator Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Congressional Delegate Eni Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa).

The purpose of National American Heritage Month is to honor and recognize the original peoples of this land. The 1996 proclamation details the contributions to the past and to the future. The full text of this proclamation, signed by President Bill Clinton can be found at the following web address: www3.kumc.edu/diversity/ethnic_relig/naihnm.html.

Sources: www.infoplease.com and www3.kumc.edu/diversity/ethnic_relig/naihnm.html

WHAT DID YOUR SCHOOL DO FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH?



Send us your articles or photographs on what your community/school did for the month of November. Let's share all the exciting activities. MOwakwak@sde.idaho.gov

Activities to Celebrate Thanksgiving

http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/curr040.shtml

"Are you teaching the real story of the first Thanksgiving?" Teaching Tolerance Website: <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=750>

The Real Thanksgiving Native American Teacher Resources:

Look below for lessons and printables on Native American life and culture. Use these resources to teach students of all ages about the colonization of America from a different perspective. You'll find great educational resources for Thanksgiving and American Indian Heritage Month in November. There are also plenty of activities to use throughout the year for music, drama, art, and language arts:

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/native-american-heritage-month/teacherresources/6648.html>

"Teaching About Thanksgiving" by Kathryn Walbert

From the "Learn NC: K-12 Teaching and Learning" website of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Education: <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/thanksgiving0704>

This site includes a detailed and accurate history of Thanksgiving, including the document first printed in September 1986 and reprinted in May 1987 by the State of Washington Office of Multicultural and Equity Education. This is at the end of this section and can be reached directly at this link: <http://www.cwis.org/fwdp/Americas/tchthnks.txt>.

Well worth the time to read through and find information that you can use at your grade level or for your subject area.

THE REAL THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving has many myths surrounding the actual events of that time. The book *Giving Thanks: The 1621 Harvest Feast* by Kate Waters with photography by Russ Kendall provides one of the best examples I have seen that tells the true story of that year. First, it is an interesting story based on actual letters sent to England from one of the colonists. To capture students' attention, it is told from the point of view of two children.

At the end of the book, it also provides more information with "The Myth of the First Thanksgiving," accurate historical information and a narrative of how the book was actually put together.

A few things to consider as you prepare with your students to celebrate this wonderful holiday:

HONORING NATIVE VETERANS

First, avoid stereotypical and caricature representations of American Indians. We understand the importance of atmosphere in your classroom. Creating an atmosphere where students feel welcome and comfortable is important. However, anytime we are integrating the history, culture or traditions of a group of people, it is important to remember to do it with accuracy.

Second, make sure that the tribes you discuss in association with Thanksgiving are the tribes of the area and not the tribes of the Plains. The tribe that attended the feast of 1621 were the Wampanoag, and they did not wear war bonnets and buffalo robes. They lived in wigwams not tipis, and they didn't ride horses. The two main Wampanoag figures of the story were Squanto and Samoset. These gentlemen spoke excellent English having learned from earlier settlers in the area. Avoid one-syllable, broken speech patterns.

Finally, if you are preparing a traditional feast, remember they were in New England. They would have had things like corn soup, succotash, white fish, deer, turkey, duck, maple sugar candies, berries (including whole cranberries), squash, sweet potato, or pumpkin.

In actuality, a lot of what we traditionally serve today did come from that time frame, although our preparation is different. They also had corn starch candy, what we call candy corn. Yep, except for the colored dye, candy corn is almost authentic!

If you are looking for a short article to share with your students that provides accurate information about the First Thanksgiving and the Wampanoag people, check out the two-page document at this website: <http://www.nmai.si.edu/education/files/harvest.pdf>.

It is a nice little study guide that you can use for a one day class discussion or that you can expand into a longer or more in-depth study.



On November 11th we celebrate and honor our country's Veterans. The Native American people have a long and distinguished history of service to this country. In the 20th Century, five Native Americans have been among those soldiers to be distinguished by receiving the United States' highest military honor: The Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor is given for military heroism "above and beyond the call of duty." Those who receive it—these Native American warriors—exhibited extraordinary bravery in the face of the enemy. Two made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The five who have received this honor are:

JACK C. MONTGOMERY, Cherokee, Oklahoma, First Lieutenant, 45th Infantry Division Thunderbirds

ERNEST CHILDERS, Creek, Oklahoma, First Lieutenant, 45th Infantry Division

VAN BARFOOT, Choctaw, Mississippi, Second Lieutenant in the Thunderbirds

MITCHELL RED CLOUD, JR., Winnebago, Wisconsin, Corporal, Company E

Charles George, Cherokee, North Carolina, Private First Class in Korea

To read more about these five heroes and what they did to receive their honors go to: <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-3.htm>

Two particularly interesting articles are: "20th Century Warriors: Native American Participation in the United States Military" www.defenselink.mil/specials/nativeamerican01/warrior.html "Native American Women Veterans" www.defenselink.mil/specials/nativeamerican01/women.html

Acorn Bread Recipe:

1c	Acorn meal	Sift together, acorn meal,
1c	Flour	white flour, baking
2T	Baking powder	powder, salt and sugar.
1/2 ts	Salt	In separate bowl, mix
3T	Sugar	together egg, milk, and oil.
1	Egg, beaten	Combine dry ingredients
1c	Milk	and liquid ingredients.
3T	Oil	Stir just enough to moisten
		dry ingredients.

Pour into a greased pan and bake at 400F. for 30 minutes.

PRESIDENT SIGNS BACA BILL CREATING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY 2008

Friday After Thanksgiving Will Now Be Designated as Day of Tribute

Washington, DC – Earlier this week President Bush signed into law legislation introduced by Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto), to designate the Friday after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day. The Native American Heritage Day Bill, H.J. Res. 62, is supported by the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) and 184 federally recognized tribes. It designates Friday, November 28, 2008, as a day to pay tribute to Native Americans for their many contributions to the United States.

"I am pleased the President took quick action on signing this legislation, which recognizes the importance of Native Americans to our history and culture," said Rep. Baca. "It is critical we honor the contributions of Native Americans and ensure all Americans are properly educated on their heritage and many achievements."

The Native American Heritage Day Bill encourages Americans of all backgrounds to observe Friday, November 28, as Native American Heritage Day, through appropriate ceremonies and activities. It also encourages public elementary and secondary schools to enhance student understanding of Native Americans by providing classroom instruction focusing on their history, achievements, and contributions. As a state Assemblyman, Rep. Baca introduced the legislation that established the fourth Friday of September as Native American Day in California – which became state law in 1998.

H.J. Res. 62 was originally passed by the House of Representatives on November 13, 2007. The bill was passed with technical adjustments by unanimous consent in the U.S. Senate on September 22, 2008. Then, on September 26, 2008, the House of Representatives unanimously voted to pass the legislation again, this time including the adjustments from the Senate. The legislation was signed into public law by the President on October 8, 2008.

"This law will help to preserve the great history and legacy of Native Americans," added Rep. Baca. "Native Americans and their ancestors have played a vital role in the formation of our nation. They have fought with valor and died in every American war dating back to the Revolutionary War, and deserve this special acknowledgement."

"Since my time in the California State Legislature, I have fought to ensure Native Americans receive the recognition they deserve," continued Rep. Baca. "After introducing the legislation that established Native American Day in California, I am proud to have introduced and passed the legislation that creates a national day of recognition. I thank my good friend James Ramos, now Chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, for standing with me from the beginning on this long journey to ensure the contributions of Native Americans are recognized and appreciated by all."

Sources: www.house.gov/baca

PBS INDIAN COUNTRY DIARIES

Indian Country Diaries raises issues that can help teachers meet multicultural educational standards in their classroom. Nichole Bihr Menard (Oglala Lakota) from Lincoln Public Schools wrote these lesson plans. Each lesson plan listed here includes learning objectives; relevant national standards; a list of necessary resources both on the website and from other sources; suggested total time for the lesson; suggested grade level; full teaching strategy; assessment recommendations and extension ideas. <http://www.pbs.org/indiancountry>



Did you know. . .

1. Native Americans are U.S. citizens and are entitled to the same legal rights and protections under the Constitution that all other U.S. citizens enjoy.
2. Native Americans are members of self-governing tribes whose existence far predates the arrival of Europeans on American shores.
3. The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 declares all non-citizen Indians born within the United States to be citizens, giving them the right to vote. Despite passage of the Indian Citizenship Act, the right to vote is still governed by state law, and many Native Americans were effectively barred from voting until 1948.

TEACHER RESOURCES FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

National Park Service Website:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/feature/indian/>

"The National Register of Historic Places is pleased to promote awareness of and appreciation for the history and culture of American Indians and Alaska Natives during National American Indian Heritage Month. This month is dedicated to recognizing the intertribal cultures, the events and lifeways, the designs and achievements of American Indians and Alaska Natives. As part of the observance, this site showcases historic properties listed in the National Register, National Register publications, and National Park units. Join the National Register in paying powerful tribute to the spirit of American Indians and Alaska Natives, and their contributions to our history."

Index of Native American Resources:

<http://www.hanksville.org/NAresources/> The Index of Native American Resources on the Internet provides links to numerous sites in several categories. Categories somewhat unique to this site include: music resources, electronic texts by and about Native Americans, bibliographies of material relevant to Native Americans, video resources, commercial resources, home pages for Native Americans and announcements with Native American related content.

National Museum of the American Indian

On March 22, 2005, the Education Office of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and Ball State University hosted two live 90-minute electronic field trips from the museum in Washington, D.C. The electronic field trip, "Sharing Perspectives at the National Museum of the American Indian," was geared toward students in grades 4 through 8 and sponsored by the Best Buy Children's Foundation. The electronic field trip is archived and available for

viewing on the Ball State University website at www.bsu.edu/eft. This website also offers an online curriculum that meets national teaching standards. Other National Museum of the American Indian and Smithsonian websites: www.nmai.si.edu, www.smithsonianeducation.org, www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/

Edsitement celebrates Native American Heritage Month Website: http://edsitement.neh.gov/monthly_feature.asp?id=99

This site has many excellent lesson plan ideas for older students.

Noble: North of Boston Library Exchange <http://www.noblenet.org/year/nativeamerican.html>

Read—Write—Think

A website of the International Reading Association
http://www.readwritethink.org/CALENDAR/calendar_day.asp?id=618

Selected Native American Websites from the Learning Resource Center at Bluegrass Community and Technical College:

<http://www.bluegrass.kctcs.edu/LCC/LIB/NATIVE%20AMERICAN/NATIVEAMERICANWEBSITES.html>

Many, many sites on all variety of topics are listed here. A few for your consideration are:

- <http://l3.ed.uidaho.edu/Sites/ShowOneSite.asp?SiteID=50> for Coeur d' Alene Tribe
- <http://l3.ed.uidaho.edu/Sites/ShowOneSite.asp?SiteID=34> for Nez Perce Tribe

My Own Private Idaho: Using Social Studies To Explore Idaho:

- <http://www.idptv.state.id.us/ntti/nttilessons/lessons2002/dodge.html>

More Great Resources:

- <http://www.nativeculturelinks.com/>

[indians.html](#) This site provides links to Native American Nations homepages and organizations.

- <http://www.hanksville.org/NAresources/> Provides an index to Native American Resources on the Internet.
- <http://www.ipl.org/div/natam/> Internet Public Library-Native American Authors.
- <http://www.csusm.edu/nadp/> Native American Documents Project.
- <http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/~kvander/ChildrenLit/native.html> Provides a Children's

The Indigenous Ways of Knowing Project

<http://www.lclark.edu/org/orcenter/indigenousways.html>

Education World Websites: http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson209.shtml

Activities to Celebrate Native American Heritage

<http://www.educationworld.com/holidays/archives/thanksgiving.shtml>